

[CLAIMS]

1. A desktop personal computer appliance for use with external user input and display devices, the appliance consisting of:

a system unit having a sealed housing comprising main processing functionality for executing application programs and at least a DC-DC converter, the housing being provided with external connectors for connection to said external user input and display devices;

a removable data storage device for storing user data associated with said application programs and a user-specific software image containing said application programs,

the housing having a recessed portion for receiving the removable data storage device and a movable closure member for enclosing the recessed portion,

an external power supply having a flying lead connectable to an external socket provided in the housing for supplying DC power to the DC-DC converter.

2. An appliance as claimed in claim 1 wherein the software image includes an operating system.

3. An appliance as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 comprising an arrangement for securing the flying lead in its the external socket to avoid accidental disconnection thereof.

4. An appliance as claimed in claim 3 wherein the securing arrangement comprises a cable shroud that is movable to and from a closed position in which closed position the cable shroud is disposed so as to prevent removal of a plug on the flying lead from the socket, and a lock mechanism for locking the cable shroud in the closed position.

5. An appliance as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the mounting arrangement for the removable data storage device comprises retaining pockets on oppositely facing inner walls of the recessed portion for receiving mounting studs extending laterally from the removable data storage unit, the pockets and studs, once engaged, enabling the unit to pivot about a first axis into an operational position within the recess, and a handle mounted on the unit so as to be rotatable about an axis parallel to the first axis.

6. An appliance as claimed in claim 5 wherein the end of the unit remote from said first end comprises a connector positioned to enable a flying lead to be manually connected thereto with the studs engaged in the pockets and the unit not fully pivoted into the operational position.

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7. An appliance as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 wherein in the closed position the handle lies flush with a surface of the removable unit that is parallel to and facing the opening of the recessed portion.

10 8. An appliance as claimed in any of claims 5 to 7 wherein the handle is substantially U shaped with side arms pivotally mounted on respective opposing sides of the unit.

15 9. An appliance as claimed in any of claims 5 to 8 wherein the housing comprises a sliding closure for closing the recess.

20 10. An appliance as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the removable unit comprises a mounting tray within which a standard form factor disk drive unit is shock mounted, the mounting studs and handle being provided on the mounting tray.